



## BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Attempted Suicide	January 7, 2012 9:23 pm	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
12-630	Winooski Bridge-Riverside Ave/Colchester Ave	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Officers Cousins and Pezzulo		
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
DC Andi L. Higbee		
VICTIM:	AGE:	VICTIM ADDRESS:
Male	41	Winooski, VT
VICTIM DISPOSITION:		
Taken into custody, transported to FAHC for treatment and evaluation		

### **NARRATIVE:**

On Saturday, January 7, 2012, at about 9:23 pm, Burlington Police received a call from a passerby on the Winooski Bridge (into Winooski) regarding a male who had climbed to the top of the bridge rail. The caller was concerned for this man's safety.

The first responding Officer, Officer Jennifer Cousins, found a 41 year old Winooski male in fact sitting on the edge of the railing, with his legs over the rail threatening to jump in. The despondent male was threatening to end his life due to traumatic events he has experienced. The male was found to be intoxicated. Officers spent the next 90 minutes negotiating with the man until he was finally convinced to come down off the railing. During the intense conversations over 1 ½ hours with Officer Laura Pezzulo, a trained and experienced negotiator, the male made several physical movements making the Officers fear that he was going to jump.

While the negotiations were ongoing with the male, the bridge was shut down for approximately 1 ½ hours to allow for the Officers to move freely and to provide a layer of safety for the male. The Burlington Fire Department was called to the scene along with Colchester Technical Rescue. Logistics, equipment and divers were prepared in case the male went into the river. Winooski Police also provided resources in assistance to this event.

The male was taken into protective custody and treated at Fletcher Allen Health Care. The

*Respect ~ Honor ~ Remember*

*Officer James P. McGrath, end of watch May 12, 1904; Officer J. Albert Fisher, end of watch December 15, 1947;  
Officer Robert W. Provost, end of watch January 13, 1954*

actions of the male are not a criminal violation and therefore he will not be charged with anything associated with this event.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the efforts of Officer Laura Pezzulo, who was assisted by Officer Jennifer Cousins. Their skill and professionalism averted a near tragedy.

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